

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A scanning device periodically changes the direction of the transmission of an electromagnetic wave from an electromagnetic wave generating device. A first driving device operates for  
5 repetitively driving the electromagnetic wave generating device a plurality of times per one period of the change of the direction by the scanning device, and thereby for repetitively transmitting a distance measurement electromagnetic wave. A second driving  
10 device operates for, before the first driving device drives the electromagnetic wave generating device, driving the electromagnetic wave generating device and thereby transmitting a judgment electromagnetic wave having an energy smaller than that of the distance measurement electromagnetic wave. An obstacle  
15 judging device permits the first driving device to drive the electromagnetic wave generating device next in cases where a detected obstacle is absent, and inhibits the first driving device from driving the electromagnetic wave generating device next in cases where a detected obstacle is present.